



# 2023-2024 MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

## **Baseball**

The game ends when the visiting team completes its half of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning provided their runs are fewer than the number scored by the home team in 6 innings, or, or game will end when, after five (5) innings of a 7-inning game, a team is ten (10) or more runs behind and has completed its term at bat.

- A. Regulation Game:** It is a regulation game if: (a) 5 full innings have been played; or if the team second at bat has scored an equal or greater number of runs in 4 or 4 and a fraction terms at bat than the opponent has scored in 5 terms at bat; or (b) play has gone beyond 5 full innings.
- B.** In (b), if the game is called when the teams have not had an equal number of completed terms at bat, the score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning; unless the home team, in their half of the incomplete inning, scores a run (or runs) which equals or exceeds the opponent's score, in which case, the final score shall be as recorded when the game is called.
- C. Suspended Games (Regular Season and Section Tournament):** A suspended game is any game that is ended **before** it becomes a regulation game, or a regulation game that has a tie score when ended. If darkness, rain, or other cause interferes with play so that the game is called (ended) by the umpire before it is a regulation game, such game shall be declared a suspended game.

If a regulation called game has a tie score when ended, it shall be declared a suspended game and must be continued from the point of suspension at a later time. The lineup and batting order of each team shall be exactly the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules governing the game.

- D. Player Participation Limitation:** In any game the starting pitcher may return to the mound once in relief; however, if the pitcher is not a starter, he may make two relief appearances. This does not modify Rule 3-1-2, National Federation Rule book. If there is a violation of this rule, a full report of the violation must be made to the MSHSL office by the school officials of the school violating the rule. The Board of Directors will determine the responsibility and penalize the responsible school official or officials. **THE GAME MUST BE AUTOMATICALLY FORFEITED.**
- E. Umpire Uniform:** The uniform for MSHSL baseball umpires is: gray slacks (heather or charcoal-charcoal preferred) with a black belt, navy blue pullover style shirt with red, white, and blue trim on sleeves and collar, or black Carolina or powder blue shirts are optional. All crew members must match. Black shoes, navy blue or black-sized hat, navy blue or black windbreaker/jacket with same trim as shirts, or no trim (either is acceptable) A black ball bag is acceptable.
- F. Ties, Regulation Season Games (Conferences may adopt this special rule.):** Each year during regular season play some conference games, after going five full innings or more are called because of rain, darkness or other cause while the score is tied. According to the rule, this is a tie game. Batting and fielding records are counted but the game is not counted in computing percentages of games won and lost.

There is, however, the choice, by conference adoption, that a regulation called game with a tie score shall be counted as half-game won and a half-game lost for each team.

- G. Baseball Courtesy Runner/Speed up Rule**
  - a.** The team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or catcher. The same runner may not be used for both positions. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
  - b.** Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.
  - c.** A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then substitute for another player in that half-inning. If an injury, illness, or ejection occurs and no other runners are available, the courtesy runner may be used as a substitute.
  - d.** The umpire-in-chief shall record courtesy runner participation.
  - e.** A player who violates the courtesy runner rule is an illegal substitute.

Exception: Should an injury, illness or ejection occur to the courtesy runner, another courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher may run.